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THE TEACHING OF HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

R/ Some interesting statistics were adduced by the Committee on the Teaching of History of Dentistry in preparation for Dr. John Gurley's report at the 1954 meeting. Of 45 schools in the United States and Canada replying to the questionnaire sent out, 39 reported that a required course in the history of dentistry was given, and six reported that no course in that subject was given. Twenty-eight schools reported that the history course was taught independently of other courses. The number of hours devoted to the subject ranged from 5 to 66 with the median at 12 and the arithmetic mean at 15.3. Of 37 instructors in charge of courses in the history of dentistry, 16 were members of A.A.H.D., and 21 were not members.

The latter statement is significant. It would seem that only persons actually interested in the history of dentistry should be teaching that subject; and if a teacher is interested in the history of dentistry, the question can be raised, Why isn't he a member of the A.A.H.D.? Can it be that non-member teachers are unaware of the existence of the Academy? or are they doubtful of the Academy's hospitality?

PAPERS PRESENTED AT A.A.H.D. IN 1954

R/ Several of the papers on the program of The Academy of The History of Dentistry at Miami appear in the Journal of The College of Dentists for December 1954. These are: "The United States Army Dental Corps" by William C. Stone, Jr.; "The Research Institute of the History of Dentistry of Berlin" by Curt Proskauer; "Review of Ohio's Contributions to Dentistry" by Edward C. Mills; and "Considerations for Publication of Dental History" by Wayne K. Stoler. William N. Hodgkin's paper "Dentistry in the Confederacy" will be published in an early issue of J.A.D.A.

ANOTHER TOOTHACHE SAINT

R/ Georges Dagen has called attention to a Saint appealed to in case of toothache other than St. Apollonia (Bulletin, 2:Feb. 1954); namely, Saint Laurence. Milton Asbell, in a letter, points out that (according to Percy Dearmer's The Cathedral Church of Wells, London, G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., 1933) one William Bytton, in the latter half of the thirteenth century, became the object of popular canonization upon his death. Miracles were worked at his tomb and crowds flocked to it with offerings, especially persons afflicted with toothache. This power over toothache was probably explained by the statement that his "teeth were absolutely perfect in number, shape and order, and without a trace of decay, and hardly any discoloration".

AIR FORCE DENTAL SERVICE

R/ The December 1954 issue of The U. S. Air Force Medical Service Digest is devoted to the USAF Dental Service. The articles are partly historical and partly descriptive of the Service.

DENTAL SOURCE BOOK OF A REALISTIC NOVELIST

R/ An article by Charles Kaplan, entitled "Fact and Fiction in McTeague", in Harvard Library Bulletin 8:381-385, Autumn 1954, has an interest for the dental historian. "Kaplan shows that Frank Norris, the author of McTeague, which was published in 1899 and became a major event in the history of the American novel, used Thomas Fillebrown's A Text-Book of Operative Dentistry, Philadelphia, 1889, as the source for technical details which he described in his novel." So comments Dr. Proskauer in a recent communication and continues: "Kaplan quotes many passages in Fillebrown's work on which Norris leaned very heavily, going so far as to incorporate technical matter almost verbatim".

THOMAS EVANS IN FRANCE

R/ Gerard Soyer has contributed to Revue francaise d'Odontostomatologie (1:1133-1149 Oct. 1954; 1281-1289 Nov. 1954) an account of the famous American nineteenth century dentist, Thomas W. Evans. The title is "Le dentiste Thomas Evans et l'histoire du Second Empire". Evans was famous for his service to the royal family, political as well as personal.

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

R/ Curt Proskauer, with the January 1955 copy of Tic, has begun a series of articles with interesting pictures on the history of dentistry. The first installment deals with Egypt and Assyria.

JOHN HUNTER

R/ The contribution of John Hunter to dentistry is discussed by Karl Franz Hoffmann under the title "John Hunter (1728-1793), ein Förderer der modernen Zahnheitkunde" (Österreichische Zeitschrift für Stomatologie 51:169-176 April 1954).

ITINERANT DENTISTS IN ARGENTINA

R/ Francisco Cignoli, in Revista Odontologica (42:400-401 Sept. 1954), has an article on "Dentistas Ambulantes del Pasado" reprinted from the newspaper La Capital (Rosario), June 1954.

COLORADO HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY IN NEW HOME

R/ The History Committee of the Colorado State Dental Association has announced (J. Colorado D. A. 32:29-30 Sept. 1954) the change in location of its historical collections from the Denver Dental Library in the Metropolitan Building to the new Medical Library building of the Presbyterian Hospital. To the Society's valuable specimens will be added the outstanding collection of toothbrushes of Dr. Max Giesecke, described in the June issue of the State Society Journal.